

**MARCH 2003 AGENDA**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<b>X</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
		<b>PUBLIC HEARING</b>
Golden State Examination (GSE) Program: Update on the GSE Program.		

---

**Recommendation:**

The following item is provided to the State Board of Education (SBE) for their information.

---

**Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action**

The SBE has requested that an item be included in their agenda that provides an update on the activities associated with the GSE Program and the linking of the three tests (Reading, Composition, and High School Mathematics) for use by the California State University System (CSUS) for purposes of placement.

---

**Summary of Key Issue(s)**

With the financial difficulties the State of California is currently experiencing, the GSE Programs complete status is tenuous. Until there is a final action by the California Legislature and a signing of current year budget cuts by the Governor of California, the current status of the GSE Program may or may not be altered. There is a proposed budget that would decrease the amount of funds for the GSE Program, but there is no final decision as of this date.

Once the budget is approved, the California Department of Education (CDE) will provide an update and a plan on how it will proceed with the program. Available information leads us to believe that there will continue to be sufficient funding to support the California Standards Test (CST)/GSE linked format. Clearly, though, the proposed reduction in funding will have an impact on the remaining 10 tests and our contract with NCS Pearson.

Assuming that decisions on the current year budget are finalized soon, CDE plans to provide the update and plans for the GSE Program in the supplemental mailing.

---

**Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)**

None.

---

**Attachment(s)**

Additional material will be provided in the supplemental mailing.